

REMARKS

In light of the above the amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner objected to Fig. 24 because it was not identified by a suitable legend. By this amendment, Fig. 24 is amended by adding thereto the designation "Prior Art."

In the Office Action under reply, claims 1-56, all the claims originally filed in this application, were rejected. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 20-21, 33-34 and 46-47 were rejected as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent 7,154,534 (Seki) in combination with the paper entitled "Image Processing in Program Production -- DTTP: Desktop Program Production" by Enami (Enami). Claims 5-6, 9-19, 22-32, 35-45 and 48-56 were rejected as being anticipated by Seki.

Claims 1-56 are replaced by new claims 57-63 which particularly point out Applicant's invention. New claims 57-63 are submitted in an effort to prevent an interpretation of the claims not intended by Applicant, as is apparent from the rejection of claims 1-56. It is respectfully submitted that claims 57-63 are patentably distinct over Seki and Enami, taken alone or in combination.

Claim 57 points out that the composition table data contains information "describing successive tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups." The terminal recited in claim 57 generates information to be input to the composition table, "said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group." This input information, including the end of task data, is added to the composition table, such that the display of the end of task data in the composition table at a terminal "instructs a group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been completed." These features of claim 57 are described at, for example, paragraphs [0148], [0155],

[0293], [0476]-[0483] and [0512]-[0514] of Applicant's corresponding published application. It is respectfully submitted that neither Seki nor Enami is suggestive of these features; and it follows that the combination of these references likewise does not suggest these features of claim 57.

Claim 58 points out that the composition table data contains information describing "A/V gathering and editing tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups." Claim 58 also points out that the composition table providing apparatus includes "an A/V database for storing audio and video information;" and that the composition table data includes "links to said audio and video information in said A/V database." According to claim 58, each terminal includes display means "for displaying said audio and video information when a link thereto in said composition table data is selected." These features of claim 58 are described at, for example, [0136]-[0137] and [0319]-[0321] of Applicant's corresponding published application. It is respectfully submitted that neither Seki nor Enami is suggestive of these features.

Claim 59 recites that the composition table data contains "updatable items, with each operating group having authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items." The composition table providing apparatus includes control means "for processing said certain predetermined updatable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data." The terminal of claim 59 includes "access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group." These features of claim 58 are described at, for example, paragraphs [0363]-[0364] and [0439]-[0442] of Applicant's corresponding published application. It is respectfully submitted that neither Seki

nor Enami is suggestive of limiting access to composition table data only to authorized operating groups, such that the composition table data can be updated by such authorized groups.

Claim 60 recites that each terminal in the system, used by an edit operating group, "includes means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with said information in said displayed composition table data describing said editing tasks," and "input information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table." This is described at, for example, paragraphs [0167], [0426]-[0442], [0470]-[0485] and [0514] of Applicant's corresponding published application. It is respectfully submitted that neither Seki nor Enami is suggestive of a system having the edit terminal defined by claim 60.

Claim 61 is directed to a terminal of the type used in the system recited by claim 57.

Claim 62 is directed to a terminal of the type used in the system recited by claim 59. And claim 63 is directed to a terminal of the type used in the system recited by claim 60. As noted above, the combination of Seki and Enami fails to describe these terminals.

Therefore, in view of the significant differences noted above between Applicant's claims 57-63 and the teachings of Seki and Enami, even if these references are combined, claims 57-63 define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

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Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
Tel. (212) 588-0800